

## Message Text

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TAGS: AS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON JAMES W. HARGROVE

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE BULLETIN (LEADING AUSTRALIAN WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE) IN JANUARY 17, 1976 ISSUE BY RICHARD HALL: QTE OUR GOOD, PATRONISING ALLY.

2. QTE THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA AND THE VISIT OF A UNITED STATES SENATE DELEGATION SERVE AS A REMINDER THAT OUR GREAT AND POWERFUL ALLY DOES THINK OF AUSTRALIA OCCASIONALLY.

3. QTE WHILE THE TWO EVENTS REPRESENT THE BLANDER SIDE OF U.S. RELATIONS, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME PUBLICITY OF SOME OF THE MORE HISTORICAL MEMORIES -- NOTABLY HOW GENERAL MACARTHUR BRUTALLY EXCLUDED AUSTRALIANS FROM CREDIT FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE HARD SLOGGING, UNGLAMOROUS FIGHTING OF THE NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGNS.

4. QTE THE NEW YEAR HAS ALSO SEEN ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF AUSTRALIA'S CLASSIC CAPACITY FOR SELF-DELUSION ABOUT OUR AMERICAN RELATIONS WHEN IT COME TO TRADE. BREATHLESS HEADLINES INFORMED AUSTRALIA OF A GREAT BEEF DEAL WITH THE U.S. WHICH, ON SCRUTINY, MEANT A POSSIBLE -- STRESSING THE POSSIBLE -- INCREASE OF 4 PERCENT IN SALES.

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5. QTE THE PROMOTION OF THE MEAT DEAL, BY WHAT LAST YEAR WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA MACHINE, BUT WHICH THIS YEAR IS PRESUMABLY SOMETHING MORE HIGH MINDED, REFLECTED THE DEEP WISH OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTIES IN AUSTRALIA TO PROMOTE THE IDEA THAT SOME SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA. THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN/AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS IS RATHER MORE PATCHY THAN SOME OF OUR OBSEQUIOUS CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS LIKE TO REMEMBER.

6. QTE INDEED, IT IS SOMETHING OF AN IRONY NOW TO LOOK BACK AND REALISE THAT FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE THIRTIES AUSTRALIA AND AMERICA WERE HARDLY ON SPEAKING TERMS, BECAUSE OF A LONG DRAWN-OUT DISPUTE ON TRADE AND TARIFF POLICY.

7. QTE EVEN PRIME MINISTER JOE LYONS, ONE OF THE LEAST AGGRESSIVE OF MEN, IN 1938 TOLD AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT THAT HIS COUNTRY'S STANDOVER ATTITUDE THREATENED LYONS' DIGNITY AS HEAD OF A STATE.

8. QTE CERTAINLY, CURTIN AND EVATT LABORED HARD IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO BUILD A SPECIAL AUSTRALIAN/AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP, BUT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY REPELLED AND DEPRESSED BY THE ARROGANCE OF MACARTHUR. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF AUSTRALIA AT THE TIME, THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT GRIT THEIR TEETH AND BEAR IT.

9. QTE THIS PATRONISING AIR TOWARDS THE AUSTRALIANS REFLECTED THE CONTINUING CURIOUS AMERICAN OFFICIAL INABILITY TO SHOW ANY REAL FEELING FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. RATHER THAN SEEKING MUTUAL COLLABORATION AND UNDERSTANDING, AMERICAN POLICY OFTEN SEEMS TO BE A ONE-WAY TRAFFIC -- A WHAT'S GOOD FOR USA IS GOOD FOR COUNTRY X/Y/Z.

10. QTE THIS MANIPULATION OF ANOTHER COUNTRY TO SERVE OFTEN OBSCURE AMERICAN POLICY ENDS WAS AN UNDERCURRENT OF AUSTRALIAN/AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE FIFTIES. IT IS NOT USUALLY REALIZED HOW FAR THE RETIRING AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, MARSHALL GREEN, AT THAT TIME WAS AN ARCHITECT OF A CONSCIOUS AMERICAN OBJECTIVE TO DRAW AUSTRALIA AWAY FROM THE INFLUENCE OF BRITAIN. THE TEST OF THIS POLICY CAME AT THE CLIMAX OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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QUEMOY AND MATSU QUESTIONS IN THE FIFTIES. WHILE BRITAIN EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE FIGHTING FOR QUEMOY AND MATSU, AUSTRALIA -- UNDER CASEY AS FOREIGN MINISTER -- MOVED FIRMLY INTO THE AMERICAN CAMP.

11. QTE CASEY'S MOTIVES IN TURNING AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS A CLOSE ALIGNMENT WITH AMERICA WERE JUSTIFIABLE ENOUGH IN REAL POLITIK TERMS, BUT THEIR VALIDITY WAS UNDERMINED

ULTIMATELY BY THE FACT THAT AUSTRALIA HAS LITTLE TO GIVE,  
EXCEPT SOME ELECTRONIC BASE FACILITIES, WHOSE TECHNOLOGY IS  
WELL ON THE WAY TO OBSOLESCENCE.

12. QTE AUSTRALIA NO LONGER SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE IN  
PROVIDING A BATTALION AND AN EXTRA FLAG OUTSIDE THE FREE WORLD  
HEADQUARTERS IN SAIGON. THE SURVEILLANCE BASES ARE LOSING  
THEIR USEFULLNESS, SO WHAT HAS AUSTRALIA GOT TO OFFER NOW --  
SUPPORT FOR DIEGO GARCIA WHICH WILL GIVE THE PENTAGON A WARM  
FEELING, BUT LEAVES THE UNITED STATES SENATE WITH MIXED  
EMOTIONS.

13. QTE THE STATUS OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR, A NATURAL GAS  
WHEELER DEALER FROM LOUISIANA, REFLECTS THE INDIFFERENCE OF THE  
OFFICIAL UNITED STATES TO AUSTRALIA. GIVEN THAT THE  
APPOINTMENT CAME AFTER DECEMBER 13, CONSERVATIVES CAN HARDLY  
BLAME THE LABOR GOVERNMENT FOR THIS OFF-HAND APPOINTMENT. OF  
COURSE, IT MAY BE THAT IT WAS FELT IN WASHINGTON THAT THE  
RETURN OF THE LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY COALITION MEANT THAT IT  
DIDN'T MATTER WHO WAS AMBASSADOR AND THAT A COME-DOWN FROM AN  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE SENT TO DEAL WITH LABOR TO A  
RETIRED EXECUTIVE DID NOT MATTER. END QTE.  
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